

# Up and Running

**After a several month wait the Leigh Referees Society Refereeing Academy is up and running. The first session was held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April at Westleigh High School with Lewis Clarkson, Ross Thorpe, Gary Knowles and Alan Bennett attending.**

This first session focused on pre-match instructions and what is expected of an assistant referee. Following this, members took part in a physical fitness session led by Alan Bennett.

The second session was held the following Monday (14<sup>th</sup> April) at Westleigh High School once again. This session concentrated on flag technique and signals. For this session we had five members present with Daniel Sims, Lewis Clarkson, Ross Thorpe, Gary Knowles and Alan Bennett attending.

It is hoped that the academy will be held every week up to the end of the current season. Each session will start with improving our refereeing ability, for example positioning, managing substitutions and assistant refereeing technique. Following this a physical fitness session will be held to improve our overall fitness. Various training equipment has been purchased such as speed ladders, slalom poles and hurdles.

A few weeks prior to the start of the season, we will begin sessions again and go through a pre-season fitness regime to get us back to full fitness ahead of the new season. As for the rest of the season, sessions will be every Monday at Westleigh High School with a 6:30pm start time. All members are welcome to the sessions.

Please keep checking the society website as times and days may change to our sessions. Finally without your support and attendance the academy will not progress so please attend as it's for everyone's benefit.

# Atherton Charity Cup

**The Atherton Charity Cup is finally underway with the all the Preliminary Round being played and a few 1<sup>st</sup> Round games completed.**

Listed below are the results for the Preliminary Round and the First Round of the competition as well as upcoming fixtures in the competition;

## Preliminary Round

Bolton Wyresdale FC **2-1** Bolton Lads Club FC  
Atherton Colls FC **3-2** Hindsford FC  
Hindsford Res FC **1-0** Westhoughton FC

## 1st Round

Daisy Hill FC **vs** Ashton Athletic FC  
Atherton Town FC Res **1-3** Howe Bridge Mills FC  
Bolton County FC **vs** Hindsford FC Res  
Tempest United FC **vs** Bolton Lads Club FC  
Ashton Town FC **vs** Three Crowns FC  
Atherton Colls FC **vs** Hindley Town FC  
Atherton Town FC **3-0** Brightmet Utd  
Stoneclough **2-1** Leigh Athletic

**Thu 17/4/08 7:45**



*(L to R) N D'Arcy, A Bennett, F Mort*



*(L to R) J Waterfall, D Tighe, N D'Arcy*

So far all games have been covered by three officials. Please continue to help Paul by offering your services to him as this is a superb opportunity for some of you to gain experience.

# end of the season

I put the question to you: How many referees does it take to referee a game?

You may say on the local park the man in the middle in the higher echelons of the game you may say the three or more officials appointed to the game.

Or perhaps it should be me in the middle, have you ever said that to yourself, or I've had enough?

I feel that many officials at this time of the year ask too many questions, will I get middle on a final, and will I be promoted? I ask have you done enough to oversee a high profile game or indeed assist. Have you officiated to the best of your ability do you deserve the opportunity to progress to the next level? The old question used to be I wonder if I will get an interview I deserve one!! How many referees change their attitude when the expected envelope doesn't arrive, do they as a person referee better or indeed give up? Where and when should you put your energies? Should they be at the beginning of the marking season in the middle or at the end, or each and every individual aspect of refereeing? Perhaps its time for officials to ask themselves blunt questions, could I have done any more, have I achieved the status as a referee I set out to become, is level five enough, if it is say so.

That local league cup finals appointments are out I have only been put on a line, it should be me in the middle, I say should it, why give me a reason? In reply "I've done twenty games this season for that league", I may repost so have many others. Having been appointed do you then return the appointment thinking well I'll get a game elsewhere, I'll get a fee then. Have you supported the league in choosing that option? Do you go to the game and say to other colleagues "I see the Referees Appointments Secretary has chosen his favourites" or do you go and offer support to your colleagues officiating?

The upgrade in status hasn't been forthcoming you want to know why; you contact the relevant County Football Association. They are honest and say unfortunately your club marks were below the necessary requirement. Angry, do you give up or do you go back the following season and punish the teams for their error? Do you self evaluate and look for ways to improve your refereeing skills, talk to people, listen, and filter advice and review. Have you been assessed have you read the assessment or ignored it because there was something in there you didn't like, have you compared the assessments together?

I would proffer that this is the time of year where you keep you faith, be honest and most of all support both yourself and your colleagues. If you want to progress it will come with hard work and effort only, nobody gets something for nothing.

The answer to the original question in my view is 'the appointed officials' work with them, for them and stand by them. Refereeing can be a lonely existence we don't referee to be popular but to be an integral part of the game. Give your best and something will be achieved, expect something and you will be rewarded poorly, give something back! The questions you should be asking yourself are never asked, what can I give, what do I want to get out of actually refereeing a game of football at which ever level.

I recall when I faltered at level four why have I not progressed, I think I blamed everyone but never understood the whole picture. Was the system fair then, no not really favourites were noted and you needed to impress then hope if you were in the clique. Referees moved from one area to ensure promotion others brought in then told the league's standard of football not good enough, seasons wasted, football deprived of quality officials, perhaps but that was then and this is now. Was I being realistic or again not actually blaming the only person to apportion blame to, me!

Thankfully the system now seems to have a fair regime of selection and an input from the right people. Ultimately the answer is clear you get out what you put in, that's how life runs. For me putting back is the issue, not should I do anything, but am I doing enough for others, can someone benefit from the experience I have gained? The facts are we can all learn from

each other, so as a society let's move forward as a group, assist each other, working on the principle "I am not the society WE are".

Questions and answers, anyone can raise a question, who has the answer, do we listen when it comes?

My closing question has this society moved forward is it progressing? Thought for the season to come and what's left of this.

**Duncan Tighe**

# Members Appointments

Competition	Fixture	Referee	Assistant Referee	4 <sup>th</sup> Official	Date
LFA 16's County Cup Final	Atherton Town v Rochdale St Clements			Dave Renshaw	17/4
L.A.L.	Old Blackburnians v Ladybridge	Nigel D'Arcy			17/4
L.F.L.	Fleetwood Town Res v Bamber Bridge Res		Jordan Holmes		18/4
L.A.L. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Team Cup Semi-Final	Thornleigh v Rochdale St Clements		Keith Swindell		19/4
L.A.L.	Bolton Wyresdale v Bury Amateurs	Nigel D'Arcy			22/4
L.A.L.	Broughton Amateurs v Tottington Utd	Martin Smith			22/4
L.A.L.	Little Lever SC v Chaddertonians	Nigel D'Arcy			24/4
N.W.C. Div 1	Nelson v Formby		Alan Bennett		26/4
L.A.L.	Rossendale Amateurs v Old Mancunians	Gary Finch			26/4
L.A.L.	Astley Bridge v Bacup Utd	Nigel D'Arcy			26/4
L.A.L.	Ainsworth v Lymm	Martin Smith			26/4
L.A.L.	Horwich Victoria v Horwich RMI	Keith Swindell			26/4

A special mention must go to Karl Evans who has been selected to officiate on the Home Nations Tournament to be held in Wales during May.

# Referee World

## **SHAMED COLE & MASCHERANO THANKED BY FA**

THE FA last night THANKED bad-boys Javier Mascherano and Ashley Cole for shaming the game.

Officials reckon their disgraceful rants at refs have helped highlight disciplinary problems and made The Sun's Shut It! and the FA's Respect campaigns hit home.

Former Premier League whistler Alan Wilkie, who works for the FA as regional refereeing manager, said: "In a way these incidents may have done everyone a favour.

"There have always been instances of player behaviour. Now we have an opportunity to reinforce the application of how we deal with dissent.

"And we should certainly take that opportunity. It has brought everything to a head. The timing of it was immaculate.

"We couldn't have planned it better. There was a launch of an initiative which will hopefully do the trick and then all of a sudden we get two high-profile incidents."

Despite the pressures on refs hitting an all-time high, the FA reckon kids are still interested in becoming officials.

There are currently over 26,000 people signed up by Soho Square and the FA's head of refereeing Ian Blanchard is hoping to entice another 8,000 by 2012.

## **TOTTI DIDN'T CALL COLLINA**

The Italian Referees Association has vigorously denied that Francesco Totti made a phone call to Pierluigi Collina following his "go to hell" gesture at the weekend.

Totti yesterday received a €1000 fine after he was caught on camera swearing and telling referee Nicola Rizzoli to "go to hell" during Sunday's 3-1 win at Udinese.

The Roma captain was only booked for the incident but it has since been rumoured that he made a phone call to referee designator Collina to apologize, thus avoiding a suspension.

This has caused some serious controversy, and has prompted cries of favouritism from Udinese sporting director Pietro Leonardi.

"When I asked to talk to the powers that be about the sending off of Andrea Dossena, they told me that the most opportune moment would be the Coaches' meetings," he raged on Radio TV.

"So then when I read that Totti called Collina I wondered how it is that he had that number."

However the AIA has denied that Totti ever phoned Collina.

Minutes of The Leigh & District Association Football Referees Society  
Meeting held Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Mr Mort in the chair with the following Officers and members present A Bennett, C Berry, K Berry, L Clarkson, G Knowles, N Lea, D Renshaw, D Sims, M Smith, N Smith, , D Tighe, J Waterfall & D Wilson.

Guests: none

Apologies accepted from: R Birchall, J Bolton, F Brown, R Drake, K Evans, G Finch, G Halliwell, D Harrop, P Haworth, M Smith & R Thorpe.

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008 were circulated to members and had been posted on the society website. The minutes were then proposed as a true record by N Smith and seconded by Danny Sims.

Matters arising: The secretary commented on the great success of the Jack Boardman quiz, and how communications had been received from both Warrington and Wigan societies, offering their appreciation towards the event.

CORRESPONDENCE: February & March (part)

1. REFEREE SUPPLIES.COM INFORMATION
2. LANCASHIRE FA MONTHLY MAGAZINE
3. WIGAN MBC APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY CHEST FUNDING DEFERRED
4. APPLICATION FORM LETTER
5. COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MONITORING NEWSLETTER
6. WARRINGTON REFEREES SOCIETY THANK YOU FOR QUIZ
7. WIGAN REFEREES SOCIETY THANK YOU FOR QUIZ
8. ALAN BENNETT ACCADEMY PROPOSAL
9. WESTLEIGH HIGH SCHOOL HIRE OF ASTRO TURF
10. JACKET PURCHASE
11. LEIGH CVS YOUNG CHILDREN WORKSHOP
12. REFEREES ASSOCIATION REQUEST TO VERIFY HANDBOOK AND RULES
13. APPLICATIONS FOR SEASON 2008/2009 AS FOLLOWS:- D Tighe, F Mort, F Brown, M Smith (Atherton), M Smith (Bolton), P Haworth, D Renshaw, D Melia, R Thorpe, D Martin, J Holmes, N Lea, L Clarkson, K Foster, J Hunter, R Hunter, S Brockley, J Waterfall, C Berry, K Berry, D Harrop and J Holmes.
14. Receipt from the media group regarding child protection for ten members

Matters arising: none

10 :Lancashire RA noted that a society member had been fined for non-appearance at a disciplinary hearing. The matter had been raised at the recent Lancashire FA referees meeting, where Alan Armstrong had raised concerns at the sudden use of fines against referees. In particular where N D'Arcy had been fined £50.00 was this fair and just. This would be discussed at the next LRA meeting which was due to be held on Monday next D Tighe to attend.

## Football Partners

Leigh RMI noted that the ground was still operational and looks like would remain so until May 2008, obviously if there was a place at the new ground then it would be looked into and a decision would be taken at an appropriate moment. D Harrop and D Tighe had been invited to attend the recent Leigh Sports village trust meeting and were made most welcome. Some interesting points had been raised and the Secretary and Treasurer had been invited to the next meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2008

Leigh Youth League: Danny Simm related his experience at a recent game where he had to abandon the game due to all players deciding to fight rather than play football.

Bolton Boys & Girls Federation: Noted that small sided football would commence this Sunday at Sharples school. The idea would commence with under 7 and under 8 football and hopefully would progress from there

Referees Association/ Lancashire Referees Association: No meeting

Treasurer's report: In the absence of Mr Harrop the secretary reviewed the society accounts stating that the society finances were in a really healthy state. The current balance in the TSB was £519.78 being as stated The Halifax remained at a healthy level of £3953.14 an amount if £250.00 was being held from grant two for membership for season 2008 / 2009 for those members availing themselves of funding. Membership was very healthy at 50 for this Mr Tighe thanked all members who had paid promptly, this had saved the Treasurer and himself the Secretary a great deal of work.

Junior referee academy: Mr Bennett raise the possibility of an academy on a similar line to the Lancashire FA. The idea had come to fruition we would be hiring a playing area at Westleigh High School from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2008, however the idea would be open to all Leigh junior members and senior members (FITNESS). It was hoped all would meet there under the tuition of the more experienced society members. Each junior member would be supplied outdoor attire and the idea monitored for the future of the society.

Training classes: A new course would be run at the beginning of April in Oldham this was in conjunction with Lancashire FA and a subsequent course at Tottington High School. However a society course would not be run until August 2008

Referee mentor / Coach scheme: no report just a thanks to all concerned for their continued efforts

Society website: Mr Haworth was not present at the meeting.

## **Any other business**

A discussion took place regarding the taking of penalties and other vibrant issues. The secretary noted that new society merchandise was now available these being as follows polo shirts at a cost of £10.00, 'T' shirts at a cost of £8.00, both available in either blue or black. Rain and padded jackets at £12.00 and £22.00 respectfully, again in either colour. As a special discount the first polo or 'T' shirt would be £6.00. It was also noted that some members had not as of yet paid for their goods.

Atherton Charity Cup; Members were asked to give their support

With no other business the meeting was closed at 9 37pm